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ASSASSINATIONS, FOREIGN LEADERS  
CHURCH COMMITTEE  
COLBY, WILLIAM E.  
FORD, GERALD R.  
KISSINGER, HENRY A.  
SCOWCROFT, BRENT

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET//~~NODIS/XGDS~~~~

178-10004-10300

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

The President

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and  
Assistant to the President for National Security  
Affairs

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant  
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, June 26, 1975

PLACE:

The Oval Office  
The White House

President: The only problem with my press conference was Mel Laird.

Kissinger: That raises a problem. We have absolutely no discipline in the government. Lynn says he has the same problem in the domestic area. Schlesinger is now on a SALT violation kick again. Now he is talking about massive Soviet missile deployments. We started MIRV deployments five years ago. Mel's article [in Reader's Digest] was mischievous. He says the Communists are coming after us in Portugal.

President: It isn't their fault. We are hamstrung.

Kissinger: We are building up problems for a SALT agreement. They are unyielding on cruise missile and Backfire.

President: Is Defense now saying not to count cruise missiles?

Kissinger: Up to 3000 kilometers, yes. That would be a farce -- it would just shift the strategic competition from ballistic to cruise missiles. We have offered a ban on ship-launched cruise missiles and not air-launched ones.

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Here is what we have shipped to Israel since April.

[He hands the President a list, which he reads.]

President: If they are going to be intransigent, we are going to have to go public. We have no choice.

Kissinger: Max Fisher came in and said they are trying to yield and just trying to find a way. We can't wait. They have already screwed it up doing it before CSCE, which we wanted, in order to do it while the Soviets' heads were down.

Here is the letter -- we have revised it just a little.

[The President reads the letter.]

President: Can Rabin say that he did respond to my telephone call?

Kissinger: We can take that out. He didn't change, but that looks petulant.

President: We could say "We have had no change in your position."

Kissinger: We don't need to do that. It is a dig and would lead to a peripheral argument.

President: The rest looks fine.

Kissinger: Shall we get Dinitz in there?

President: Sure.

Kissinger: Shall we have Javits in for five minutes?

President: How about Ribicoff?

Kissinger: If you want to lay it out for him.

President: How about that letter on Soviet MFN?

[The President reads the draft letter.]

Let's get it up there today.

Kissinger: Volpe wants to begin discussions with the Communists in Italy.

President: I don't understand that.

Kissinger: It is a case of localities: It will be hard not to include the Communists in the government, but we don't want to play.

President: I agree.

Kissinger: Your meeting on the Turkish embargo this morning -- your talker has an option to put in a Greek aid sweetener.

[He reads the President the Brademas [intercept] with the Greek Ambassador.]

President: With this group, should I tell them what I propose and urge them to proceed and ask them what they think?

Kissinger: The waiver is something you are willing to do for them; it is not for us.

We are having another Church problem. They are now asking for everything related to the six assassination areas -- it is all the NSC processes.

President: We are not going to do it. Who is the problem? Hills?

Kissinger: No, Hills is fine. Colby is the insoluble problem.

I was at a dinner with Strauss. He said you would win in '76.

Scowcroft: McGovern told me the same thing.

Kissinger: It was not a buoyant Democratic group last night. On Church, the major thing to say is that he is going at a difficult period, that the old idea that they are part of our decision making structure is past. He shouldn't blow it up.